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The History of England from the Accession of James the Second.

By Lord Macaulay. Edited by Charles Harding Firth,
M.A., Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of
Oxford. Volume II. (London: Macmillan and Company. 1914.

Pp. xx, 517–1039.)

THE second volume of the illustrated edition of Lord Macaulay's History of England covers the period which began with Monmouth's expedition and ends with the acquittal of the seven bishops, which is to say chapters V. to VIII. inclusive. With this we come full into the stream of the story and can well determine the character and quality of the work the editor and publisher have set themselves to do. As might be expected the illustrations continue to develop largely on the side of portraiture, though the maps and plans, and the facsimiles of contemporary prints, broadsides, and documents are by no means wanting. effect, however, this is a portrait gallery. It may not be true, as his critics averred, that Macaulay brought into his history every Non-conformist minister who could have any pretension to be remembered and many who had no such claim whatever; it may be true that he described many individuals as well as many circumstances in which no one would or ought to have the slightest interest to-day; yet nothing which has ever been written about Macaulay produces the effect of these illustrations in demonstrating his marvellously intimate acquaintance with the almost innumerable individuals whose actions and characters he chronicles. Here, for the first time, we see the Revolution literally face to face. As to the choice of portraits, when so much is included there is little to be said. The plates in color, Lely's Monmouth, Kneller's James II. and his Shrewsbury, Wissing's Mary of Modena, van Dyck's Children of Charles I., van Ceulen's curious picture of William III. as a child, the extraordinary Harding-Maratti's Sunderland as a Roman, and Maubert's Dryden, with one or two exceptions only make us wish for more. In particular it seems a pity that thus far we have had no color portrait of the Duchess of Marlborough, who, if anyone in the period deserves that honor, certainly seems entitled to a place, as well by her beauty as by her prominence. It is to be hoped that such an opportunity may not be overlooked.

With regard to the plan of the edition it appears that only Macaulay's own words are to be here reproduced. While there are advantages from the standpoint of the scholar, who will probably try—or be able—to purchase only the final volume of notes, and from that of the mere reader who may not care to be bothered with notes at all, there is a certain feeling of disappointment that, in this volume particularly, with its highly controverted points, the Penn case, the Stuart case, and others of less consequence, there is not even a hint that Macaulay's is not the final word. To some, moreover, the device of numbering pages consecutively, so that volume II. begins with page 517 and ends with page

1039, evidently seems to be the only proper device for a definitive edition of a classic whose words are thus forever fixed, embalmed, and sacred to a particular place within the whole. To others it may appear an almost excessive stretch of the definitive spirit, whose advantages are overbalanced by its inconveniences. But, whatever the criticisms, one fact remains, this is an edition not merely worthy of the text but one which is likely to be henceforth regarded as the "standard" Macaulay.

W. C. Аввотт.

The Life of Charles Third Earl of Stanhope. Commenced by GHITA STANHOPE, revised and completed by G. P. GOOCH. (London, New York, Bombay, and Calcutta: Longmans, Green, and Company. 1914. Pp. vi, 286.)

Mr. Gooch, at the request of the Hon. and Mrs. Henry Stanhope, presents in this volume the completed biography of the third Earl Stanhope which was begun by their daughter and the earl's great-greatgranddaughter, the late Ghita Stanhope, and left unfinished at her death. It is unlikely that this book fairly represents the abilities of either of the collaborating authors, and it is difficult under the circumstances to ascribe praise or blame. The first six chapters, which bring Stanhope to the French Revolution and to his break with his brother-inlaw, Pitt, were practically complete at the death of the projector of the work. These chapters are much like the numerous biographies that. were published in the mid-Victorian period for the primary purpose of exploiting family papers or paying tribute to the memory of a distinguished relative of the author. In this case the latter purpose predominates, and the family papers have yielded few documents that will be of material use to the students of the history of the time. The tenth chapter, entitled Steamboats and Canals, which is likewise largely the work of Miss Stanhope, "embodies", Mr. Gooch tells us, "the results of prolonged research, and forms a valuable contribution to the history of naval construction and administration". Even this chapter contains no novel points of importance and merely serves to illustrate the exaggerated conservatism which in that period characterized the management of British naval affairs and of the British government in general.

The remaining chapters of the book are from the pen of Mr. Gooch, who is more familiar with the general history of Stanhope's time, and therefore writes with a surer touch than did his collaborator. He traces the career of the eccentric nobleman as a sympathizer with the principles of the French Revolution, an opponent of the war with France, and a consistent supporter of liberal views of religion and politics in England, concluding with a notice of his activities as an inventor and some references to his unfortunate domestic experiences. A majority of the numerous letters which Mr. Gooch quotes at length were already accessible